

Google statements to 7.30

On privacy:

"Data makes Google services more helpful and relevant, but the information Google collects, and how that information is used, depends on how you use our services and how you manage your privacy controls.

Google's privacy policy explains what information we collect, why we collect it, and how users can control, update, manage, export, and delete their information.

We created My Account to give you quick access to the settings and tools that help you safeguard your data, protect your privacy, and decide what information is used to make Google services work better for you. In 2017, Australians visited myaccount.google.com more than 22 million times.

We also built easy-to-use tools such as Dashboard and My Activity, to give users transparency over data collected from activity across Google services. My Activity enables you to see and control what data is saved to your account, while Dashboard provides an overview of the Google products that you use and the data in each of them, all in one place."

On the Grace Millane case:

"Our thoughts are with the Millane family in these tragic circumstances and we do not wish to cause any further distress.

We understand the sensitivity around this issue and we have taken action, including suspending Google Trends emails about searches trending in New Zealand and removing reported web pages from New Zealand search results.

When Google receives suppression orders, we review and respond appropriately. In this unique case last December, people in New Zealand performed searches for the names of the individuals involved. Trending searches — or searches that jump significantly in traffic over a time period in the selected geography — trigger an automatic email by Google Trends to people who have signed up for these alerts. In this case, the Google Trends email went to less than 200 people in New Zealand.

We've been in touch with Minister Little about the steps we have taken, including reviewing our systems, putting in place procedures to prevent recurrence, and sharing the procedure for court orders with key stakeholders, including the Courts, Netsafe and the Department of Internal Affairs.

We acknowledge that we don't always get it right and will continue to work with the New Zealand Government and law enforcement on this important issue."